

What's New in the MPDC

FEBRUARY 18, 2002

SURVEY OF DC CRIME VICTIMS REVEALS STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES IN MPDC PERFORMANCE

Approximately four out of five crime victims surveyed in DC report being satisfied with the police services they received, with MPDC officers getting particularly high marks for being respectful and showing concern for victims. However, large numbers of victims reported wanting more follow-up information, referrals and services from the police in the aftermath of their victimization. Those are among the key findings of a citywide survey of crime victims conducted last year by the MPDC, with the results published this past week. Police recruits completed telephone interviews with more than 400 randomly selected individuals who had been victims of five crime types – aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, robbery and simple assault – during November and December of 2000. Survey respondents were asked 27 questions designed to help police officials better understand the needs of crime victims and measure their satisfaction with police services. Chief Ramsey said the results of the survey are being used to upgrade training for uniformed officers and detectives, and to enhance policies, procedures and other resources devoted to serving crime victims. He also said a second survey of crime victims, using police recruits once again, will be conducted beginning in March. See the news release, which contains a link to the full report, at:

One of the areas in which victims reported wanting more information from the MPDC involved victims compensation. Learn about compensation programs for crime victims in DC at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims/victimsfaq.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

JOINT COMMAND CENTER ACTIVATED FOLLOWING LATEST FBI TERRORISM ALERT

This week, the MPDC, in conjunction with various federal law enforcement agencies, activated the Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC) on the 5th floor of Police Headquarters. The JOCC allows law enforcement agencies to come together and cooperatively plan and implement public safety and homeland security efforts in DC during major events or periods of heightened alert. The JOCC contains a computer network for inputting and sharing intelligence and other information, and it has videoconferencing capabilities that allow officials in the JOCC to communicate real-time information to officers attending roll-call in the seven district stations and other MPDC facilities. The JOCC also supports live video feeds from approximately one dozen fixed cameras the MPDC has installed in and around key installations in downtown DC. The video technology provides a “bird’s eye” view of the areas surrounding these installations, and would help police to respond rapidly to suspicious activities or actual incidents. The video system is not activated or monitored around the clock; rather, it is used only during periods when video monitoring can support specific public safety efforts. And while the JOCC has the capability to access video systems operated by the DC Public Schools, Metro and certain other government agencies, these feeds would be activated only in the event of a specific threat or incident.

For more information on the latest FBI terrorism alert, click on:

www.fbi.gov/mostwanted/seekinfo/temp021102.htm

LATEST PHOTO ENFORCEMENT RESULTS

Appearing on WTOP radio's "Ask the Chief" program, Chief Ramsey released the latest figures from DC's photo radar and red-light camera programs. Six months into the photo radar speeding reduction initiative, the latest data show that the number of people speeding – and the speeds at which they are traveling – are both down on DC roads monitored by photo radar. Whereas 31 percent of motorists were exceeding the photo radar speeding threshold during July 2001, the percentage was reduced by more than half, to 15 percent, during January 2002. Twenty-three percent fewer citations were issued in January 2002 than in November 2001, further reflecting the reduction in aggressive speeding. The average speed of all drivers also continues to decline, especially in residential areas. On 25-mph streets, for example, the average speed has declined from 35.5 mph in July 2001 to 28.9 mph in January 2002. View the details on the latest photo radar results at:

Two-and-one-half years into DC's red-light camera program, the number of violations continues to be down substantially. The latest statistics show a 65 percent reduction in red-light running at the 39 intersections equipped with cameras – the equivalent of about 24,500 fewer dangerous violations each month. Details at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm

RAMSEY ANNOUNCES TWO COMMAND-LEVEL PROMOTIONS

Chief Ramsey recently announced two command-level promotions designed to enhance the MPDC's leadership in the critical areas of counter-drug intelligence and use-of-force investigations. Mark Beach has been promoted to commander and assigned as the MPDC's representative on the national Counterdrug Intelligence Executive Secretariat (CDX), where he will serve as the senior regional, state and local projects coordinator. The CDX provides staff support to the Counterdrug Intelligence Coordinating Group, a senior-level interdepartmental committee that supports counterdrug intelligence efforts throughout the country. The senior project coordinator monitors cross-jurisdictional issues and coordinates implementation of counterdrug policies. In addition, Joshua Ederheimer has been promoted to inspector within the Office of Professional Responsibility, where he will manage all aspects of the MPDC's use-of-force investigations and reform efforts. In his new position, Ederheimer will oversee the Department's Force Investigation Teams, which investigate all serious use-of-force incidents, as well as the Compliance Monitoring Team, which is responsible for implementing the Memorandum of Agreement the MPD signed recently with the U.S. Justice Department on use-of-force reforms. Read the news release on the promotions at:

For more information about the MOA between the Justice Department and the MPDC, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

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Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

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WWW.MPDC.ORG